

F-49-02-02-02-22-08

Feb. 18, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. A. W. Hook
Manager of Environmental Control
Anaconda Aluminum Company
Columbia Falls, Montana

FROM: Frank J. Laird, Jr.

RE: Preparation and Analysis of Vegetation Samples

I have reviewed the Aluminum Company of America analysis of vegetation as requested by you. Commensurate with your wish, this review was kept strictly confidential. No one else has access to the Aluminum Company of America procedure.

In comparing ALCOA's method of sampling and preparation with our method they do generally concur. However, on the surface it appears that our method is much more practical and functional than what is explained in the writeup by ALCOA. It appears that at the initiation of our sample program, some years ago, we did adhere to the detail as outlined by ALCOA, but through the years we have made improvements in the technique and upgraded our procedure.

Item No. 2 Summary of Method

Our sample is reduced to ash at approximately 590°C and not 600°C. Through experience it was determined that at 600°C occasionally one could volatilize the fluoride.

Item No. 3 Apparatus

We use specifically that which is underscored in red.

Item No. 4 Reagents

We use a low fluoride but not that which is obtainable from ALCOA Research Laboratories. Neither do we prepare a slurry - this method became too laborious and unnecessary.